

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved**

*February 14, 2023*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday January 24, 2023 at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Scott Walker, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Phil Lasker was not in attendance. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

**Anticipated Speakers :** N/A

**Preliminary Matter:** Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission chair, took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Walker.

### **Bench Donation – Robbins Farm Park:**

Mr. Connelly received a bench donation request from Jennifer Tripp. The request is to install a dedication plaque on an existing bench located on the overlook in honor of Dr. Peter Tripp, DVM. It was noted that the bench location is significant to Dr. Tripp because it sits near the dog statue. Mr. Connelly has already discussed verbiage modifications with Ms. Tripp to be in compliance with PRC guidelines.

### **Capital Project Updates**

Spy 95% complete and Parmenter 92% complete

· Working with Pace Labs and Conservation Commission on Testing – As a condition of ConCom's approval, testing was performed on the rubber surfacing at Spy Pond. Mr. Connelly stated that the first tests failed but were performed incorrectly. A second set of tests will be conducted at the Robbins Farm Park slide area. Ms. Canniff requested more information on the project approval process should the test fail and noted the risk to ADA compliance if a different surfacing is required. She also asked if the Commission would have to remove PIP from future Capital projects. Ms. Rothenberg questioned how ConCom could overrule state ADA compliance mandates and mentioned that the disability commission may need to be involved. Mr. Fenollosa inquired if the testing would be standard for future inspections. Mr. Connelly stated that there would be no further issues if the test passes. He also shared information about a new cork product being used in Europe that may be available in the future. Ms. Garnett shared that she will bring the Commissions ADA concerns and questions at Thursday's ConCom meeting. Ms. Garnett stated that legal counsel may need to research state and federal ADA laws and standards. Ms. Mayer noted that testing was not required when the pathway was installed. Ms. Rothenberg also asked how the testing results would affect Robbins Farm. Mr. Connelly stated that the issue is pertinent to wetland areas only. Ms. Rothenberg also questioned if the high school would be required to test.

- Rubber cannot be installed until the spring.
- Handrail has been fabricated and will be installed in March.
- Parmenter paving work will be completed in the spring.

- No completion date is available at this time.

#### Robbins Playground

- Third Public Input Meeting is scheduled for March 16. A preferred design will be shared at the meeting. The working group has seen the design and is pleased.
- Design is moving in the right direction. Mr. Connelly spoke with the design team today and was provided an estimated budget of \$1.4-1.5M.
- Commitment to use half of ARPA FY24 along with CPA funding, if necessary.
- Use of ADA funding in FY24 also an option (study for parking).

#### Arlington Reservoir Phase II – No change (wood temp fence removed 2-14)

- Small punch list items remain. Planting replacement will take place in the spring along with clean-up of the paths. Mr. Connelly shared that the "snow fence" was removed today. Ms. Canniff expressed concern about the amount of sand that is on the grass in the fenced-in area. Mr. Connelly stated that because seed mix was used rather than sod the contractor is not responsible. The area will be fixed in-house.
- LCWF grant paperwork is complete and officially closed out.

#### Stratton, Peirce, Bishop ARPA Project –No change

- Bishop is open. Sealcoating will be done in the spring.
- Stratton is open. Some minor tweaks will be needed in the spring.
- Peirce is open. Sealcoating will be done in the spring with change to PIP during the early summer.
- Mr. Connelly provided the School Department a fencing option for Stratton but has received no response to date.

#### Hurd Field Project

- Majority of the project is complete,
- Work is being conducted on patio entrance and pavers. Repairs are being made to the fencing.
- All changes approved to date.

## Poets Corner

- Filing with Concom on Wetland delineation will be done soon.
- The third public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23. A revised draft plan will be shared. Mr. Connelly stated that the project will not go through if turf is banned. Ms. Canniff noted the potential loss of Open Space if the project is not approved as the Archdiocese will be forced to sell their parcel, likely to developers.

## Turf Prohibition Discussion

- Letters have been submitted to ConCom from PRC and expert.
- Town Wide Forum to take place April 11<sup>th</sup>. The co-sponsors are still discussing forum details; facilitation, third-party facilitator, chosen speakers. Mr. Connelly stated that the forum would be informational with presentations from the Commission's expert and Chairs and ConCom's expert and Chairs. Mr. Connelly will provide information on usage and respond to such inquiries. The Commission is hoping that all projects be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure the ability to complete better projects. Ms. Mayer asked if invitations had been sent to Town Meeting Members specifically. Mr. Connelly noted the citizen petition warrant article demanding a 3 year moratorium on all projects. He also stated that he has reached out to ACMI to tape the forum. Mr. Walker expressed the need to balance the quality of materials with their environmental impact.

## Arlington Court Needs Assessment

- RFP has been awarded to Activitas.
- Working group of users will meet with Activitas soon.

## CPA Requests – Hills Hill, Menotomy

- Final presentations are complete. CPAC will discuss and vote funding recommendations on February 22, 2023 at 6:00pm.

## **Public Management Plan**

Ms. Rothenberg, Ms. Mayer, Mr. Lasker and Mr. Connelly made suggestions to KZLA and David Morgan. Mr. Connelly requested that the Commission members review the Plan and email him their recommendations. He will compile a formal summarization with all feedback. Ms. Mayer stated that David Morgan had stated at CPA that he would be requesting additional funding for the Public Management Plan. Mr. Connelly shared that the plan does not include playground studies but noted that it does include Open Space parcels that have playgrounds on them. Mr. Connelly added several notes including; Capital funding sources, Reservoir grounds maintenance, Crusher Lot/Hill's Hill wording needs to be inclusive of all existing uses, tree inventory, etc. Ms. Rothenberg stated that she

and Ms. Mayer had forwarded their recommendations to Mr. Connelly previously but will review the plan further. Ms. Mayer noted that there is a need to address existing definitions, such as “cultural use” and specific categorizations. Ms. Canniff questioned how so many recommendations were missed and/or not included. Mr. Connelly said that KZLA’s contract term and budget did limit the revisions. Ms. Garnett pointed out that the transition from Emily Sullivan to David Morgan may also have affected the timeline. Mr. Connelly said that he would email the Commission tomorrow. Mr. Fenallosa requested Mr. Connelly include the link to the document.

**Approval of Minutes:** 1/24/2023

Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023, as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 4-0 by roll call vote.

Ms. Rothenberg – Yes  
Ms. Mayer – Yes  
Ms. Canniff – Yes  
Mr. Walker – Yes

**Comments and Items for Future Meetings:**

- a) Open Space and Recreation Plan – Mr. Connelly will remove the item from the agenda.
- b) Off Leash Program Review – Proposed meeting 2/28. Mr. Connelly will send out the current policy for review in preparation for the meeting. Captain Flynn from Arlington Police will attend. If a new ACO is hired prior to the meeting, they will also attend. Ms. Canniff asked if Mr. Connelly had any input in the hiring process of the ACO. Mr. Connelly requested that the new ACO enforce existing laws and ticket owners as needed.
- c) AHS & Public Art Request Review – Proposed meeting 2/28 to discuss locations and alternative signs. Ms. Rothenberg requested the locations of the five pieces that have already been installed and noted that the Commission had not been contacted prior to the installation.

**Correspondence Received:** Disability Commission, Historical Commission, Hill’s Hill

**New Business:** Ms. Rothenberg stated that, on the record, she is requesting that Commission meetings return to the in-person model as soon as possible. Mr. Connelly has scheduled in-person meetings beginning in March. Ms. Garnett shared that she is in the process of moving and that a new ConCom liaison to PRC will be appointed in April.

**Open Forum – Public Comment:** Liz Reisberg stated that she would like to see a hybrid meeting option to increase public participation in Parks and Recreation meetings.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 8:35pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 4-0 by roll call vote.

- Ms. Rothenberg – Yes
- Ms. Mayer – Yes
- Ms. Canniff – Yes
- Mr. Walker - Yes

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.